IN THE CLAIMS

1 (Original).   A method comprising:

determining if there is a pending demand request to a cached disk subsystem and, if not, executing a non-demand request.

2 (Original).   The method of claim 1 including queuing requests including demand requests, requests to write from the cache back to a disk drive, and requests to flush the cache.

3 (Original).   The method of claim 2 wherein if the next request is a non-demand request, executing said non-demand request and monitoring for a demand request.

4 (Original).   The method of claim 3 including preempting the execution of the non-demand request after receiving a demand request and executing the demand request before completing the non-demand request.

5 (Original).   The method of claim 4 including re-queuing said non-demand request for execution after the completion of the demand request.

6 (Original).   The method of claim 1 including determining whether the cache is idle before executing a write back request.

7 (Original).   The method of claim 1 including interrupting a write back request during its execution after receiving a demand request.

8 (Original).   The method of claim 1 including executing cache flush operations when a pending write back request has been received.

9 (Original).   The method of claim 1 including executing a driver generated non-demand write back request.

10 (Original). An article comprising a medium storing instructions that, if executed, enable a processor-based system to:

determine if there is a pending demand request to a cached disk subsystem and, if not, execute a non-demand request.

11 (Original). The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based system to queue requests including demand requests, requests to write from the cache back to a disk drive, and requests to flush the cache.

12 (Original). The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based system to execute said non-demand request and monitor for a demand request.

13 (Original). The article of claim 12 further storing instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based system to interrupt the execution of the non-demand request after receiving a demand request and execute the demand request before completing the non-demand request.

14 (Original). The article of claim 13 further storing instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based system to re-queue said non-demand request for execution after the completion of the demand request.

15 (Original). The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based system to determine whether the cached disk subsystem is idle before executing a non-demand request.

16 (Original). The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based system to interrupt the execution of a non-demand request after receiving a demand request.

17 (Original). The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that, if executed, enable the processor-based system to execute cache flush instructions when a pending write back request has been received.

18 (Original). A system comprising:

     a cache;

     a disk drive coupled to said cache; and

     a controller to determine if there is a pending demand request to a cached disk subsystem and, if not, implement a non-demand request.

19 (Original). The system of claim 18, said controller to queue requests including demand requests, requests to write from the cache back to the disk drive, and requests to flush the cache.

20 (Original). The system of claim 19, said controller to execute a non-demand request and monitor for a demand request.

21 (Original). The system of claim 20, said controller to interrupt the execution of a non-demand request after receiving a demand request and execute the demand request before completing the non-demand request.

22 (Original). The system of claim 21, said controller to re-queue said non-demand request after a completion of the demand request.

23 (Original). The system of claim 18, said controller to determine whether the cached disk subsystem is idle before executing a non-demand request.

24 (Original). The system of claim 18, said controller to interrupt the execution of a non-demand request after receiving a demand request.

25 (Original). The system of claim 18, said controller to execute cache flush instructions when a pending write back request has been received.

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